The Unnatural Mother!

Being a Full and True

ACCOUNT

of One ELIZABETH KENNET, a Marry'd Woman, living in *Robin Hood's* Court in *Shoe-lane*, who, on *Tuesday* the 6th of *April*, 1697, privately Deliver'd her self, and afterwards flung her Infant in the Fire, and Burnt it all to Ashes, but a few of the Bones.

Likewise of her being had before a Justice, and her Confession there. *9 April 1697*

DAily Instances of Barbarities, one would think, should be enough to terrifie a Christian People from the like; but the Devil is so busie, that scarce a day passes, but some inhumane Murder is Committed; and this which I am going to give you a Relation of, I think is one of the Cruellest and most Unnaturalest of the Age, it being Committed by a Mother, and a Married Woman, on her own Infant; which you may take as follows.

This cruel Mother before mentioned, is one *Elizabeth Kennet*, her Husband being a Pavier, and a House-keeper, and one that is well to pass, and of likewise the Repute of a very honest Man, and always very kind unto *Elizabeth Kennet* his Wife; she being very big, her Husband would ask her why she did not provide Things for the Child against she was brought to Bed? but she still would make him a Reply, That he need not trouble himself, for she was provided well enough; and on *Tuesday* in *Easter*-Week, she was that Morning at a Neighbours House merry, and Eating some Gammon of Bacon; and her Husband the same Day happen'd to take a Walk to *Hampstead*, and Returning in the Evening, found a Hubbard about his House; but soon perceiving the occasion, was ready to run distracted; and is now in such a troubled condition, that ev'ry body that knew him does heartily pitty him: The occasion of which is by his Wife, who in his absence, happen'd to fall in Labour, but call'd for no Woman about her; but after delivering of her self, 'tis thought she wrapp'd the Child in a Cloth and flung it in the Fire, where it was consum'd all but a few of the Bones: There has been a Minister, who prayed with her, then tax'd her with making away of her Infant; she denies her own doing of it, but charges a Neighbouring Woman that she took it from her and carried it to the *Thames* and Drowned it; the poor Woman wrings her Hands and tears her Hair, and is ready to run distracted, and does protest she was not in the Room when she was deliver'd, nor never saw any Child she had; the Mother will not confess as yet that she flung her Child in the Fire, though there is several of the Bones found, which she pretends to be Bones of Lamb which she had the day before; and on *Wednesday*

afterwards flung her Infant in the Fire, and Burnt it all to Aſhes, but a few of the Bones.

likewiſe of her being had before a Juſtice, and her Confeſſion there. 9 Aprill 1697

DAily Inſtances of Barbarities, one would think, ſhould be enough to terriſie a Chriſtian People from the like; but the Devil is ſo buſie, that ſcarce a day paſſes, but ſome inhumane Murder is Committed; and this which I am going to give you a Relation of, I think is one of the Cruelleſt and moſt Unnaturalleſt of the Age, it being Committed by a Mother, and a Married Woman, on her own Infant; which you may take as follows.

This cruel Mother before mentioned, is one *Elizabeth Kennet*, her Husband being a Pavier, and a Houſe-keeper, and one that is well to paſs, and has likewiſe the Repute of a very honeſt Man, and always very kind unto *Elizabeth Kennet* his Wife; ſhe being very big, her Husband would ask her why ſhe did not provide Things for the Child againſt ſhe was brought to Bed? but ſhe ſtill would make him a Reply, That he need not trouble himſelf, for ſhe was provided well enough; and on *Tueſday* in *Eaſter*-Week, ſhe was that Morning at a Neighbours Houſe merry, and Eating ſome Gammon of Bacon; and her Husband the ſame Day happen'd to take a Walk to *Hampſtead*, and Returning in the Evening, found a Hubbard about his Houſe; but ſoon perceiving the occaſion, was ready to run diſtracted; and is now in ſuch a troubled condition, that ev'ry body that knew him does heartily pitty him: The occaſion of which is by his Wife, who in his abſence, happen'd to fall in Labour, but call'd for no Woman about her; but after delivering of her ſelf, 'tis thought ſhe wrapp'd the Child in a Cloth and flung it in the Fire, where it was conſum'd all but a few of the Bones: There has been a Miniſter, who prayed with her, then tax'd her with making away of her Infant; ſhe denies her own doing of it, but charges a Neighbouring Woman that ſhe took it from her and carried it to the *Thames* and Drowned it; the poor Woman wrings her Hands and tears her Hair, and is ready to run diſtracted, and does proteſt ſhe was not in the Room when ſhe was deliver'd, nor never ſaw any Child ſhe had; the Mother will not confeſs as yet that ſhe flung her Child in the Fire, though there is ſeveral of the Bones found, which ſhe pretends to be Bones of Lamb which ſhe had the day before; and on *Wedneſday* about Ten of the Clock, ſhe was put in a Coach and had before a Juſtice, where ſhe perſiſted in the old ſtory, and ſaid thoſe Bones which were produc'd, were Bones of a Lamb's Head; but upon the Juſtices farther inquiry into the matter, and asking her what made her put the Lamb's Bones in a Cloth? She ſeem'd to be at a Stand; and after ſome time, 'tis ſaid, ſhe own'd ſhe Burnt her Child, but withall alledging it was a Monſter, by having of two Heads, and ſhe was aſham'd the World ſhould ſee it, which made her do what ſhe did: 'Tis ſaid the Juſtice took Bail for ſome ſmall time; after which ſhe will be ſent to *Newgate*, to remain till the next Seſſions, and then to be Tryed for the ſame.

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